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(54) Title: RECOMBINANT SECOISOLARICIRESINOL DEHYDROGENASE, AND METHODS OF USE

(57) Abstract

A secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase protein has been isolated from Forsythia intermedia, together with cDNAs encoding secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase from this species. Accordingly, isolated DNA sequences are provided which code for the expression of secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase. In other aspects, the present invention is directed to replicable recombinant cloning vehicles comprising a nucleic acid sequence which codes for a secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase protein, or to a base sequence sufficiently complementary to at least a portion of a secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase DNA or RNA to enable hybridization therewith. Thus, systems and methods are provided for the recombinant expression of secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenases that may be used to facilitate the production, isolation and purification of significant quantities of recombinant secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase for subsequent use, to obtain expression or enhanced expression of secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase in plants in order to enhance, or otherwise alter, lignan biosynthesis, or may be otherwise employed for the regulation or expression of secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase.